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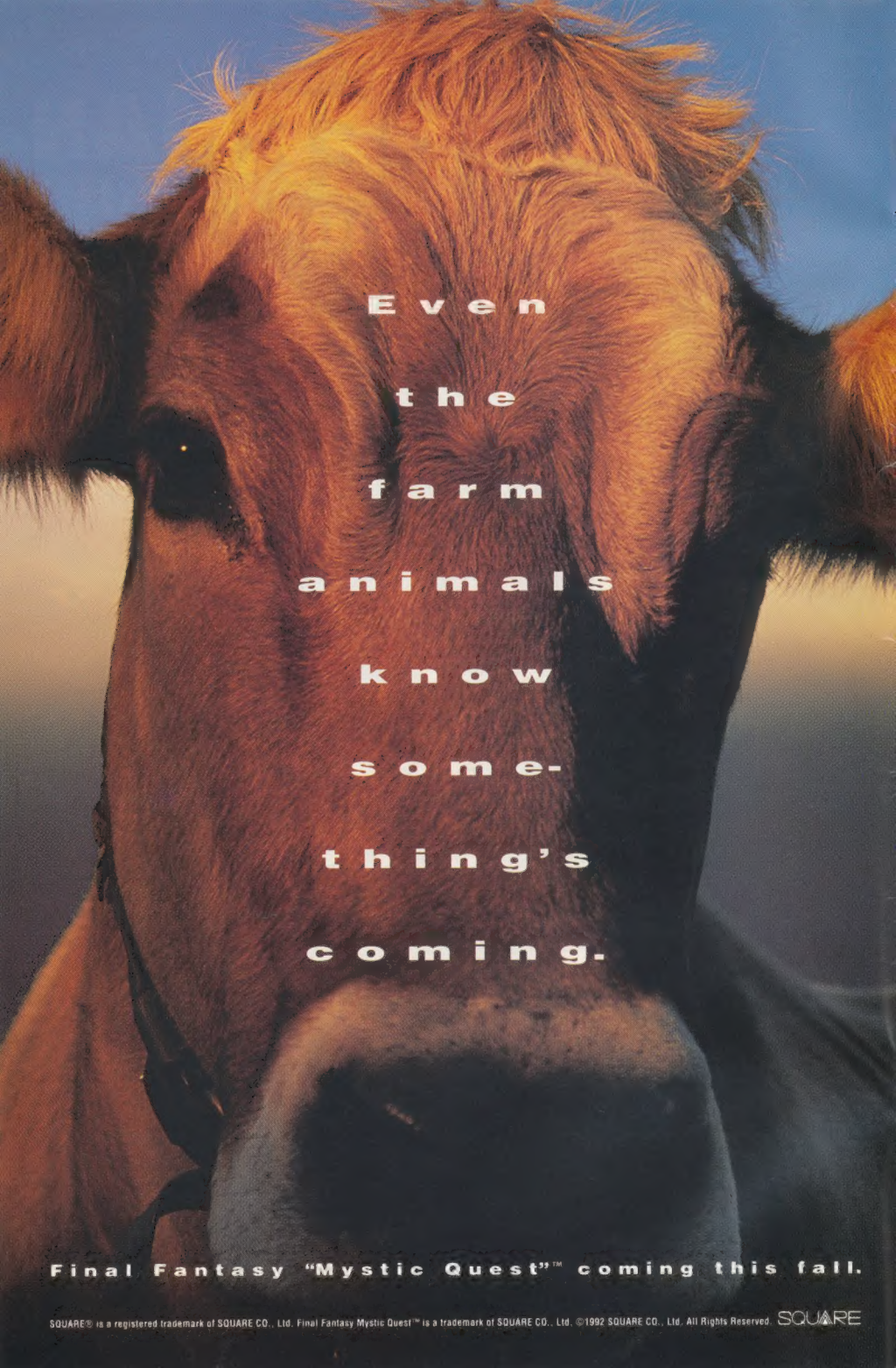
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farm
animals
know
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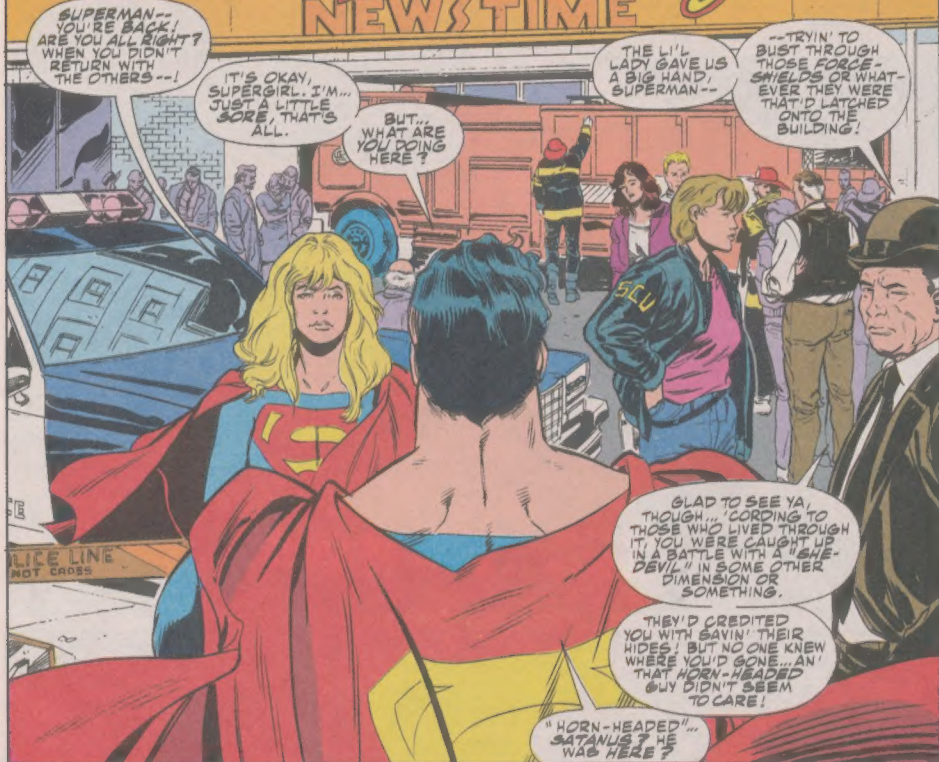
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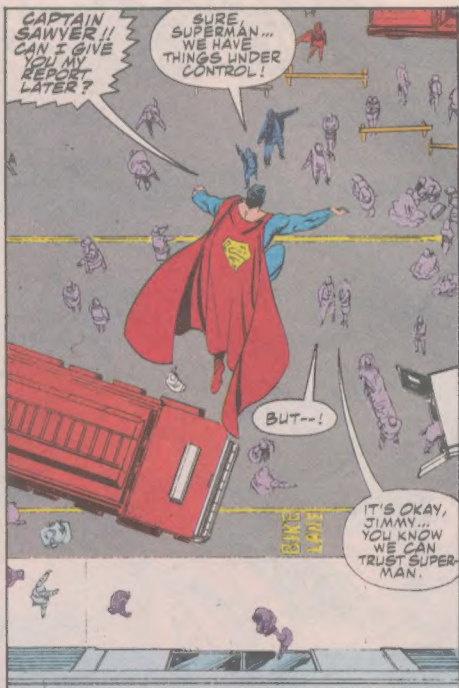
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WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE TROUBLE HERE--!

I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU, TOO, BABE... BUT EVERYTHING'S OKAY, NOW!

ME?! WHY WOULD ANYONE WORRY ABOUT ME?



YOU'RE SURE THAT YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?

WELL, I PROBABLY LOOK A FRIGHT, BUT--!

MR. KENT-- CLARK-- HOW'D YOU ESCAPE ALL THE WEIRDNESS? ONCE WE GOT INSIDE THE NEWSTIME BUILDING, WE COULDN'T GET OUT!

* IN ADVENTURES #493.



OH, THAT... WELL, I'M AFRAID I NEVER MADE IT INSIDE, JIM. ON THE WAY I TRIPPED AND SPRAINED MY ANKLE! YOU'D THINK I HAD TWO LEFT FEET!

ANYWAY, I HAD TO MAKE A STOP TO CLEAN UP AND GET IT WRAPPED. FROM WHAT I HEAR, I MISSED QUITE A MELEE!



I'LL SAY! WE WERE ATTACKED BY DEMONS! THIS SATANUS GUY-- BLAZE'S BROTHER, NO LESS!-- SHOWED UP TO HELP SUPERMAN!

THEN THE WHOLE BUILDING WAS ZAPPED INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION, * AND--

SLOW DOWN, SON... SAVE IT FOR THE LATE EDITION!

* IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH'S WORTH OF THE FOUR SUPER TITLES! (SEE WHY YOU SHOULD NEVER MISS AN ISSUE!)



IT MAY SOUND CRAZY, KENT, BUT OLSEN'S TELLING THE TRUTH!

IF YOU SAY SO, PERHAPS SOMETHING CERTAINLY HAPPENED HERE.

A SPRAINED ANKLE! WHAT A SIMPLE PLOY... AND HE MADE THEM SO BELIEVABLE! NO WONDER CLARK'S BEEN ABLE TO HIDE HIS DOUBLE IDENTITY ALL THESE YEARS!



IT WAS REALLY WEIRD, CLARK... EXCITING, YEAH... BUT THE KIND OF EXCITEMENT I COULD DO WITHOUT! YOU WERE LUCKY TO MISS IT!

YES... LUCKY. I WISH THOSE PEOPLE COULD HAVE BEEN AS LUCKY.

SUPER-MAN DID HIT BEST, CLARK...

ELINE
T CROSS

"BUT EVEN HE CAN'T SAVE EVERYONE! NO ONE COULD HAVE DONE MORE THAN HE DID!"



IT'S ALL RIGHT, SAM... I PROMISE YOU, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT NOW... YOU'LL BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF.

TH-TH-THANKS, MR. THORNTON... I PRECATE ALL YOUR CONCERN... I COULD REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED IN THERE.

YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A TERRIBLE ORDEAL, SAM-- YOUR MIND OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T WANT TO REMEMBER JUST NOW. DON'T TRY TO FORCE THE MEMORIES...

... IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD. YOU WILL RECALL ONLY THAT WHICH SATANUS WISHES YOU TO--

HOW IS HE THORNTON?

AH, KENT! FOSWELL'S STILL A BIT DAZED; I'M AFRAID... AND HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE! NOT TO WORRY, THOUGH...

... MY EMPLOYEES ARE WELL COVERED UNDER NEWSTIME'S HEALTH PLAN, AND, AS PUBLISHER, I PERSONALLY AIM TO SEE THAT THEY GET THE FINEST CARE AVAILABLE.



I JUST THANK THE STARS THAT I'D INSTITUTED STAGGERED LUNCH HOURS, OR EVEN MORE OF MY STAFF WOULD HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THAT... WELL... MADNESS--

"-- FROM THE WAY I'VE HEARD IT DESCRIBED! I CONSIDER MYSELF FORTUNATE TO HAVE BEEN AWAY FROM THE BUILDING WHEN IT HAPPENED.



POOR FOSWELL... THE WAY HE LOOKS-- I MAKES ME WISH I COULD TAKE BACK ALL THOSE ROTTEN THOUGHTS I HAD ABOUT HIM!

AFTER HE FIRED ME FROM THE DAILY PLANET, I WANTED HIM PUT THROUGH HELL-- LOOKS LIKE I GOT MY WISH!

FUNNY, THOUGH, I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING HIM WITH THE OTHERS... EITHER IN THE BUILDING OR THAT OTHER DIMENSION. I WONDER WHAT ALL HAPPENED TO HIM?

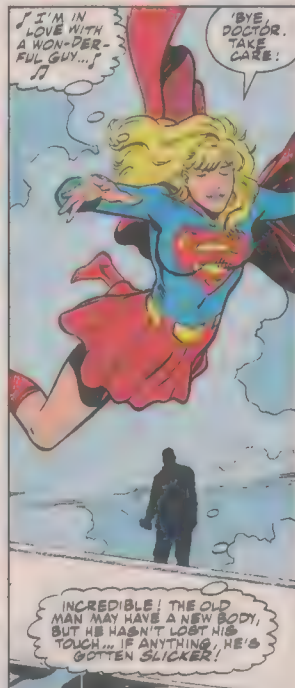
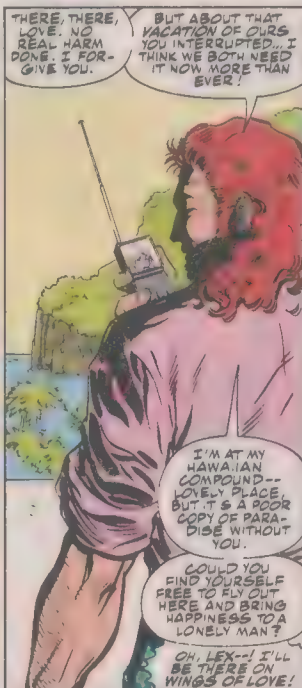
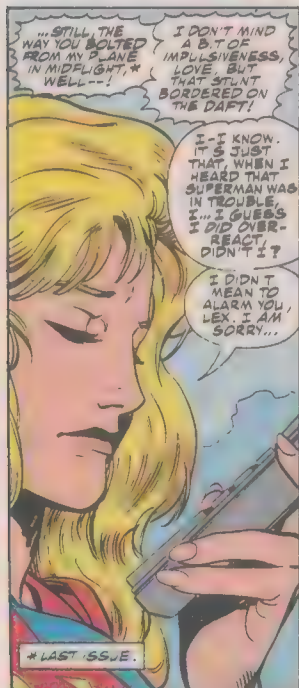
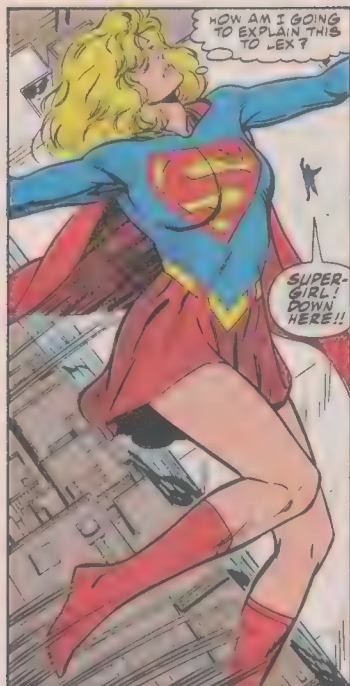
WELL, IF EVERYTHING IS REALLY UNDER CONTROL, I GUESS I'M NOT NEEDED ANYMORE, EITHER!

THERE ARE OTHER PLACES I SHOULD BE! 'BYE, ALL!

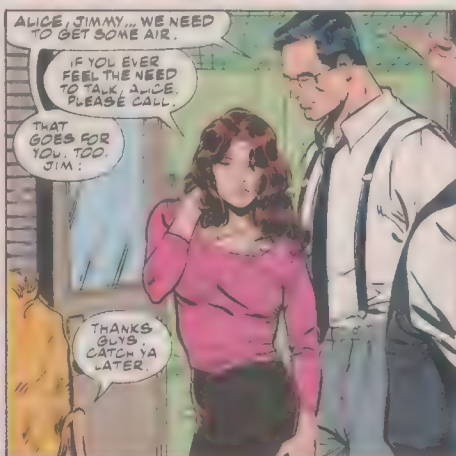
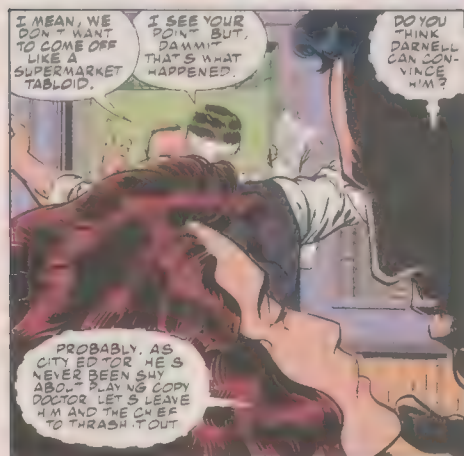
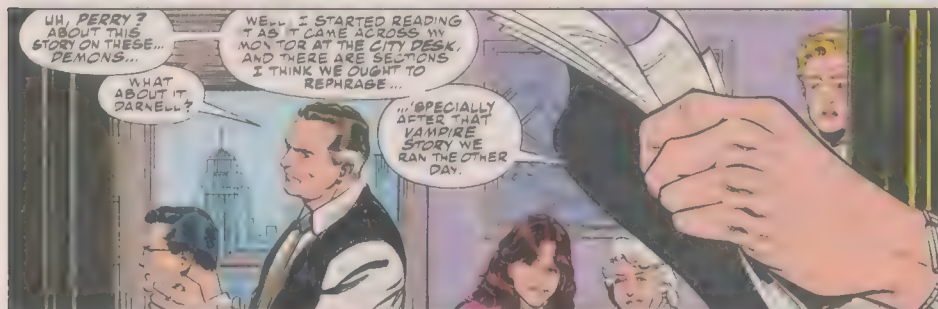
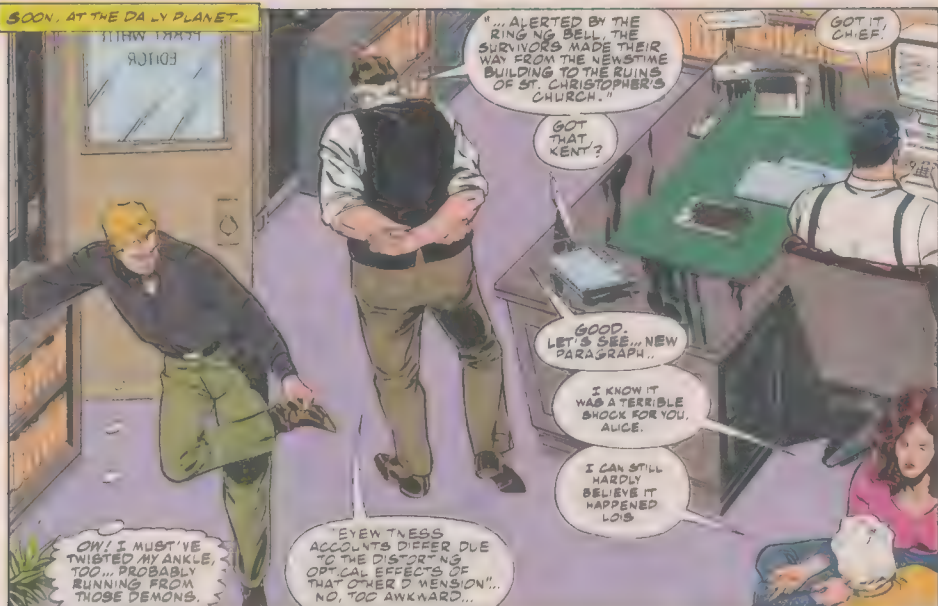


THERE ARE OTHER PLACES ALL OF US SHOULD BE! COME ON, KIDS... LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE PLANET--

--WE HAVE A STORY TO GET OUT!



SOON, AT THE DAILY PLANET



SHORTLY...



...BUT KISMET KNEW ALL ABOUT ME... SHOWED ME THE CHOICES I HAD MADE AND THE ONES I HADN'T... AND THE WAY THINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN

SOUNDS COSMIC... AND SCARY! DID YOU SEE... ANYTHING YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

MAYBE LATER.

DO YOU HAVE TO CHECK IN WITH MASSIE SAWYER RIGHT NOW? MAYBE YOU SHOULD RES- FIRST, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT STILL HURT? THAT'S AN AWFULLY CON-VINCING LIMP...

I'M FINE, LOIS, REALLY. AND AS FAR AS THE LIMP GOES, I HAVE CLAYTON MOORE TO THANK FOR THAT.

CLAYTON MOORE? YOU MEAN THE LONE RANGER?

"NO REALLY, LOIS: AFTER BLAZE WAS BLOWN APART, I CAME TO-- MY WOUNDS HEALED AND MY COSTUME RESTORED-- IN ANOTHER PLACE...

...A KIND OF LIVING REALITY WHICH CALLED ITSELF KISMET. N... I'M NOT CERTAIN HOW TO PUT THIS...

UH-HUH! WHEN I WAS A KID, I USED TO WATCH RERUNS OF THE RANGER EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL. HE WAS A BIG PART OF MY CHILDHOOD

ANYWAY, WHEN I WAS COMING UP WITH THE EXCUSE FOR CLARK KENT'S NOT BEING AT NEWSTIME--

OF COURSE! I REMEMBER THOSE EPISODES... WHEN HE'D DISGUISE HIMSELF AS THE OLD PROSPECTOR!

--I REMEMBERED THAT WHEN THE RANGER HAD TO FAKE A LIMP, HE'D PUT A STONE IN ONE SHOE.

EXACTLY. THIS PEBBLE DIDN'T HURT ME, OF COURSE--BUT FEELING IT THERE REMINDED ME TO THROW OFF MY STRIDE ENOUGH TO AFFECT THE LIMP!

YOU'RE SO CLEVER! BRAINY AS WELL AS BRAVY!

OR, SPEAKING OF BRAINY... DID I TELL YOU THAT I GOT A CALL FROM KITTY FAULKNER?

SHE'S BACK IN METROPOLIS... BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF OVERSEEING THE NEW S.T.A.R. LABS FACILITY! I'M SEEING HER TOMORROW.

WELL, BE SURE TO SAY "HI" FOR ME.

"HI" FROM SUPERMAN OR CLARK? OR BOTH?

BETTER MAKE IT JUST FROM CLARK.

MMM... BE BACK SOON!

I SHOULD HOPE SO--



"--YOU KNOW HOW I HATE TO DO NE ALONE."

THAT WOMAN IS AN ABSOLUTE JEWEL. ASKING HER TO MARRY ME WAS THE SMARTEST THING I EVER DID. IT'S GOOD HAVING SOMEONE TO SHARE LIFE WITH.

I FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY NOT TELLING HER THAT BLAZE HAD TRANSFORMED SAM FOSWELL INTO THE GARGOYLE CREATURE THAT ATTACKED ME.

BUT SAM APPARENTLY REGAINED HIS HUMANITY WITH NO ONE BECOMING THE WISER... AND THE MAN'S SUFFERED SO MUCH LATELY.

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM HAS APPARENTLY BEEN BLOTTED FROM HIS MEMORY, SO I SEE NO NEED TO FURTHER BURDEN HIM--

*LAST ISSUE



--BY REVEALING HIS SECRET FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T TELL YOU ANY MORE THAN THAT MAGGIE BLAZE WAS STOPPED AGAIN FROM SAVING A FOOTHOLD ON EARTH...

...THAT MUCH, AT LEAST, WE WON.



I SEE, AND WHAT ABOUT THAT HORNED CHARACTER, THE ONE WHO CLAIMED TO BE HER BROTHER?

SATANUS? I HAVEN'T A CLUE AS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. HE'S HARDLY ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS, BUT HE DID HELP STOP BLAZE.

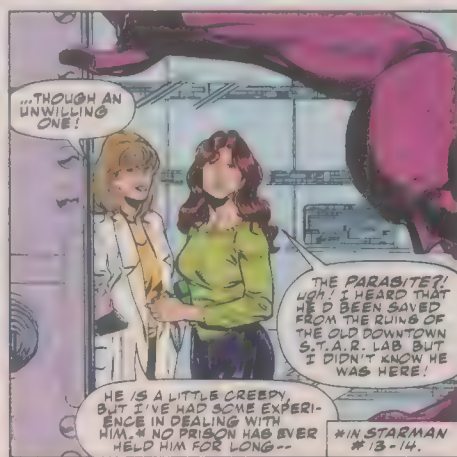
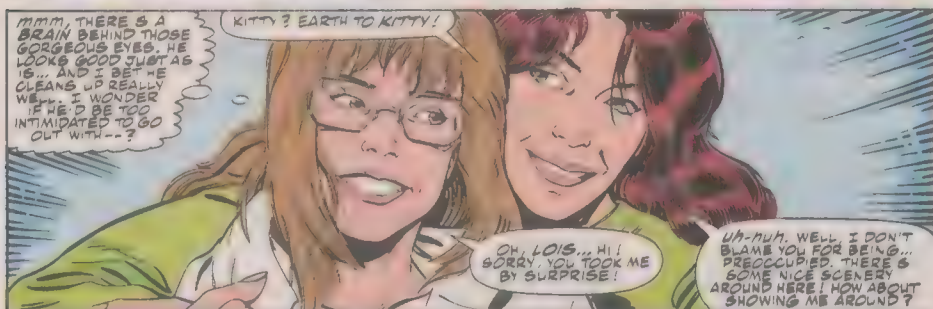
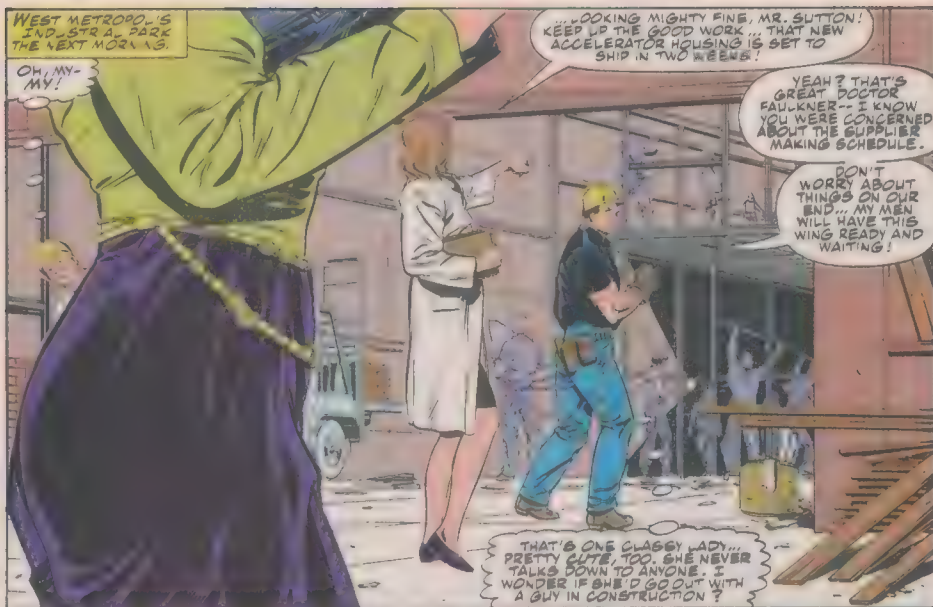


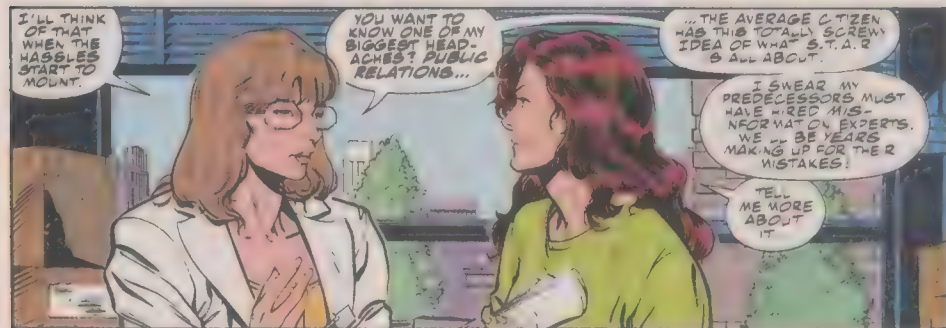
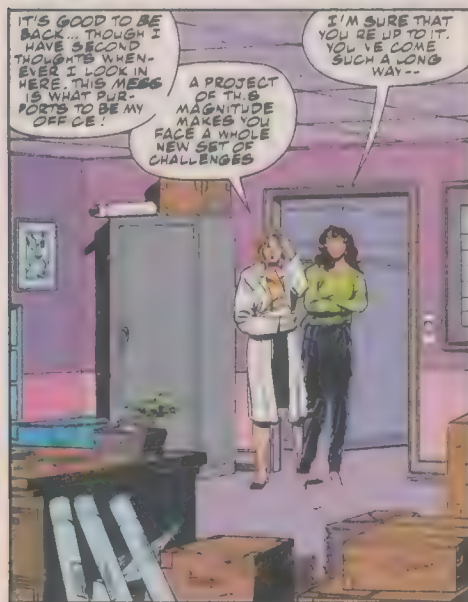
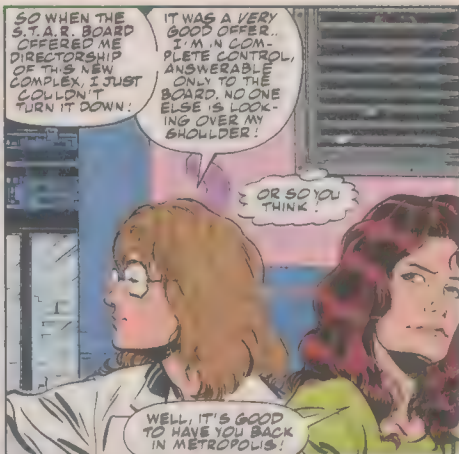
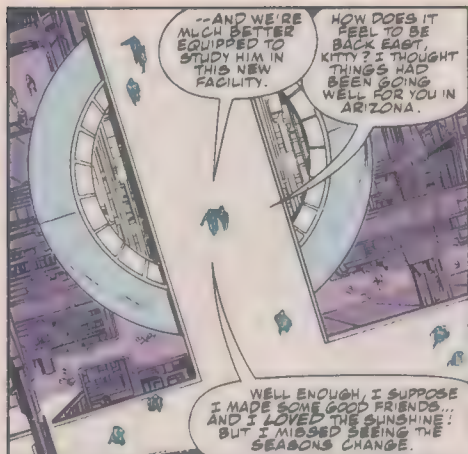
I HAVE TO ADMIT HIS MOVES ARE A PUZZLE TO ME

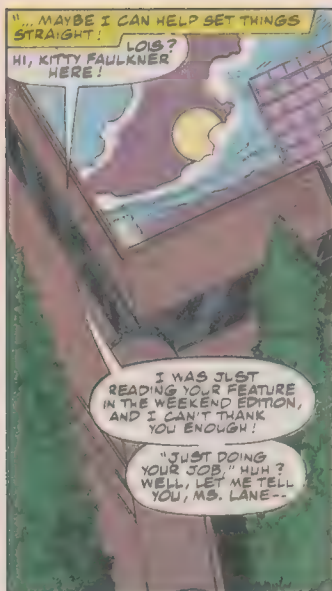
YEAH, WELL, THIS WHOLE INCIDENT MAKES MY HEAD HURT OFFICIALLY, WE'RE CALLING IT A TERRORIST ATTACK BY SUPERHUMAN AGENTS.

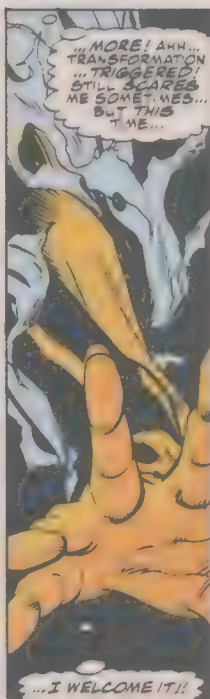


*WITH HELP FROM THE CREEPER, IN THE CLASSIC BRAVE & BOLD #80.











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WHERE'S
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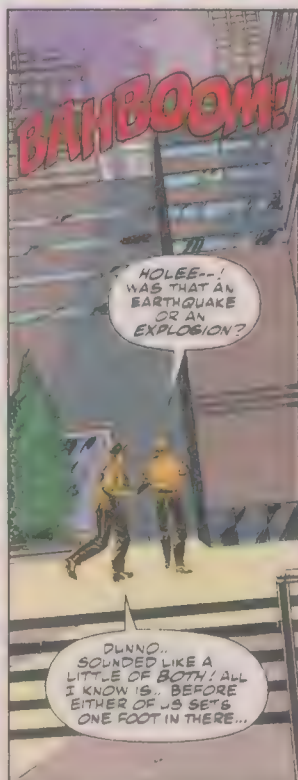


WHERE YOU'LL
NEVER FIND
HER, CHITIN-
HEAD!

YOU HAVE
A NEW
WORRY
NOW--



--ME!!



BAHBOOM!

HOLEE--!
WAS THAT AN
EARTHQUAKE
OR AN
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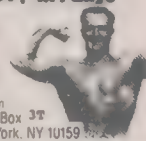
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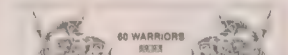
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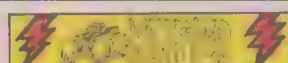
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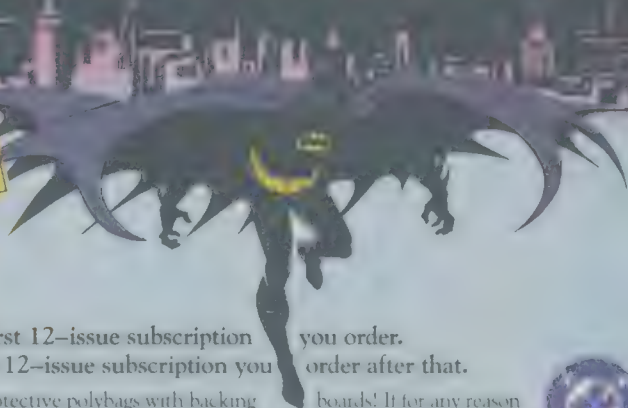
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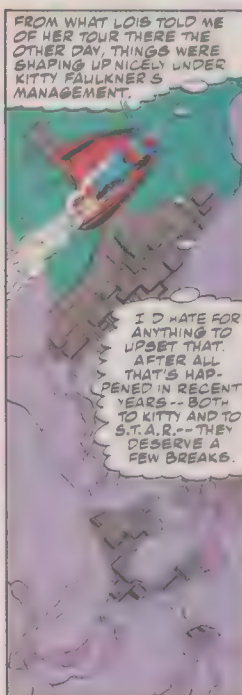
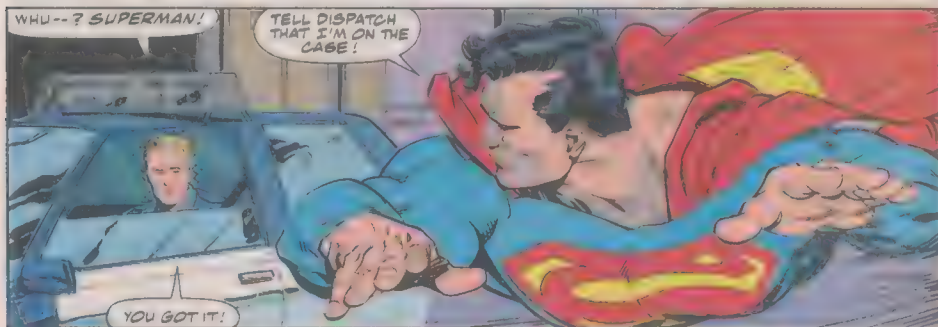
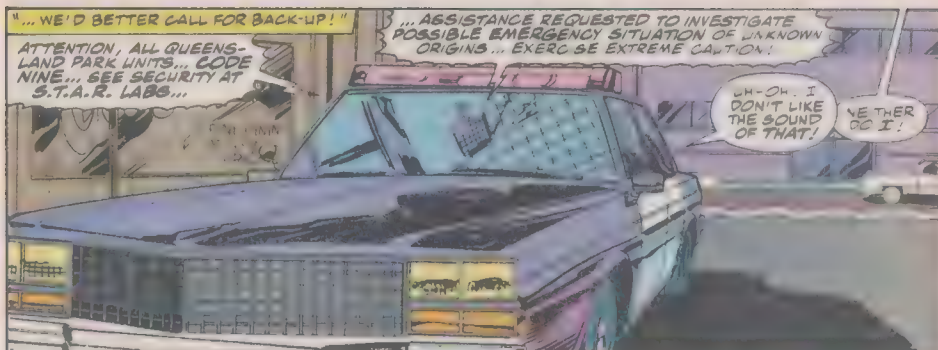
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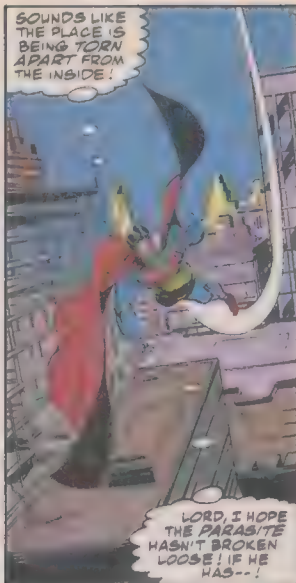
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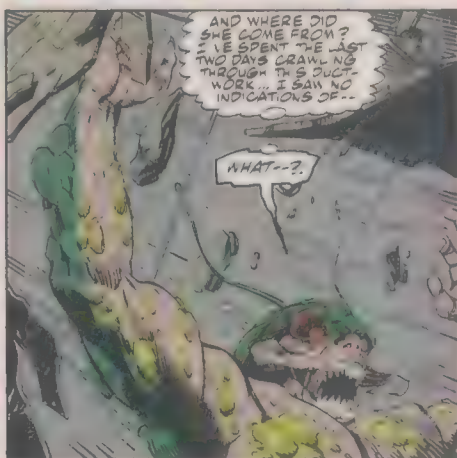
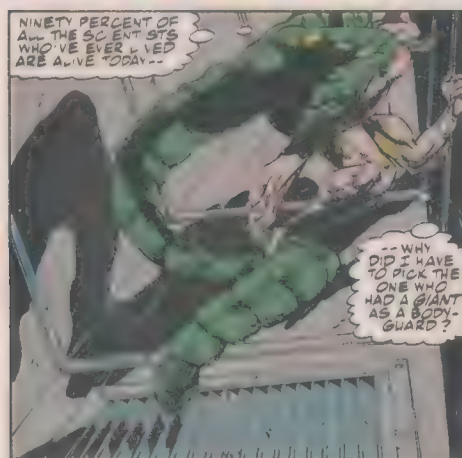
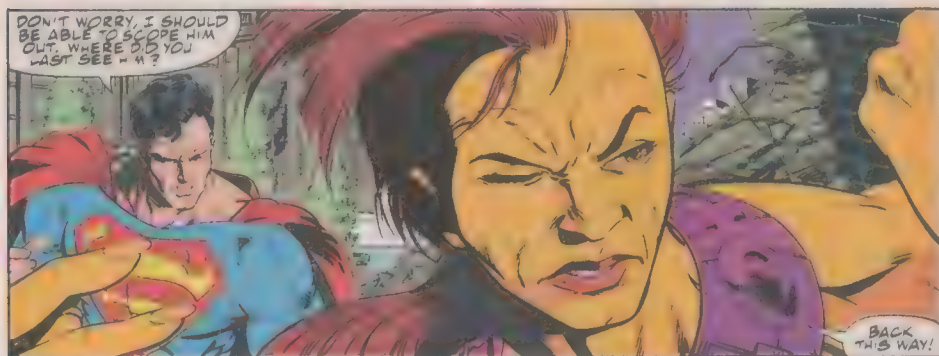
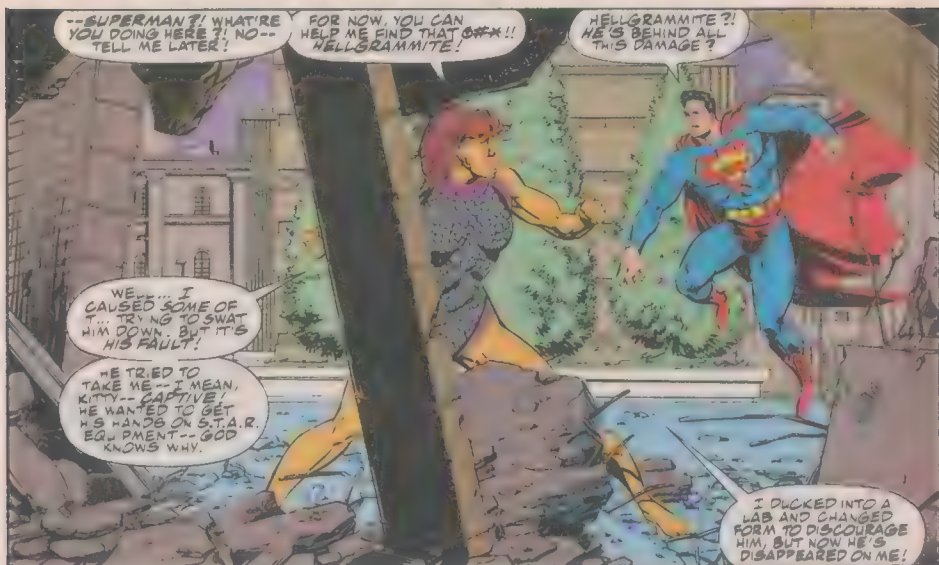
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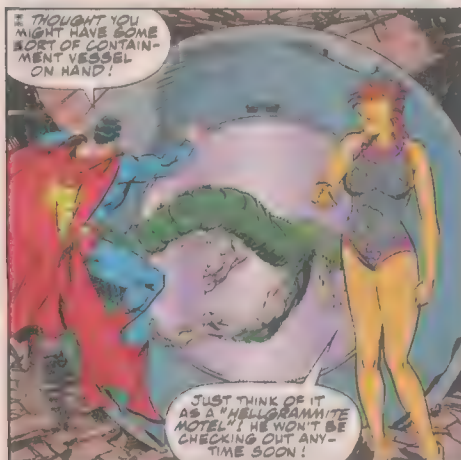
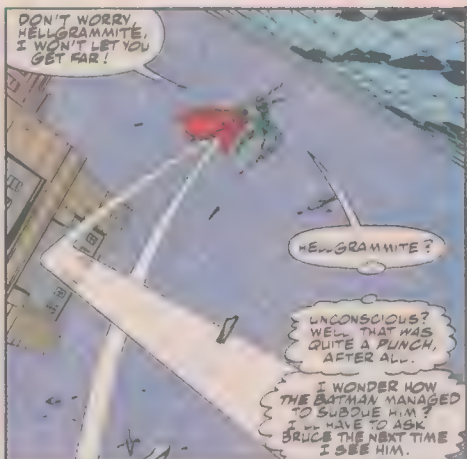
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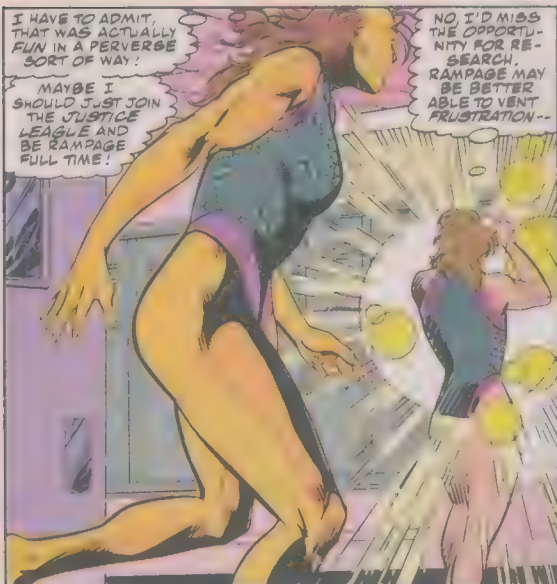
Manhunter

THREE ISSUES IN DC'S PREMIERE FORMAT

BY GERARD JONES AND EDUARDO BARRETO







I HAVE TO ADMIT, THAT WAS ACTUALLY FUN IN A PERVERSE SORT OF WAY!

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST JOIN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AND BE RAMPAGE FULL TIME!

NO, I'D MISS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR RE-SEARCH. RAMPAGE MAY BE BETTER ABLE TO VENT FRUSTRATION--

--BUT I THINK I'D RATHER MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE FOR MY "LARGER HALF" ...FOR NOW.

THERE, THIS SHOULD MAKE ME A BIT MORE PRESENTABLE!



I NEVER HEARD SUCH A RUCKUS BEFORE!

BUT IT DIDN'T LAST LONG ONCE YOU SHOWED UP, SUPERMAN! I'M KINDA SORRY WE MISSED IT.

THERE WASN'T MUCH TO SEE. BESIDES I DID GET A LITTLE HELP FROM ONE OF YOUR PEOPLE IN CONFINING HELL-GRAMMITE.

Uuuhh??



WHAT? YOU MEAN, SOMEONE FROM RESEARCH WAS DOWN HERE DURING ALL THAT?

YES...YOUR DOCTOR FAULKNER. HERE SHE IS NOW.

DOC! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

FINE, THANKS. I HID IN A LAB WHEN HELL-GRAMMITE SHOWED UP.

GOOD MOVE, KITTY. WHENEVER POSSIBLE, TELL THE TRUTH...



...OR AS MUCH OF IT AS YOU CAN!

THANKS AGAIN, SUPERMAN, FOR HELPING US DEAL WITH THIS TRESPASSER!

YOU'RE WELCOME, DOCTOR. IT WASN'T TOO HARD, ACTUALLY...

...AND WITH YOU IN CHARGE I'M SURE THERE WON'T BE ANY FURTHER PROBLEMS IN KEEPING THESE RAMPAGES UNDER CONTROL!

NEXT ISSUE: FROM THE EDGE OF SPACE TO BENEATH THE EARTH, SUPERMAN RUNS THE...

GAUNTLET!



DC COMICS INC.
1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

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Dear Mike and Dan:

Congratulations! ACTION COMICS #677 is the best issue released to date! The artwork was super...b. I found myself falling head over heels for Matrix/ Supergirl. Her innocent, demure manner was extremely sensual. The way she moved, stood and spoke made her seem like she would leap from the page at any second. Her facial expressions changed her from a woman to a girl depending on the scene. I didn't believe a comic book character could be presented in such a lifelike way. Kudos to Mr. Roger Stern and especially Mr. Jackson Guice and Mr. Denis Rodier. I almost forgot she was not really humanoid, unlike Superman, who is a humanoid alien. The fact that she is in the diabolical clutches of L.L. II presents all kinds of story possibilities; however, we all know that Matrix/ Supergirl must either turn into a villain or go away.

I can't wait for the next issue! They just keep getting better and better!

Jackson Potts
Sterling Heights, MI

Yes, Jackson, there are always possibilities, but they are not necessarily the ones you suggested. This Supergirl is here to stay!

Dear Mike:

Jackson Guice's art is nothing short of phenomenal! As I reread the comic to think about what I might comment upon for this letter, I stopped reading the word balloons and just gazed at the artwork—all the characterization was there. Indeed, it provided the subtle underpinning to prove to us that Superman was right to treat Supergirl the way he did, despite his own embarrassment and misgivings at the end. She is too innocent, too naive, too...malleable (no pun on her own powers!) Her physical poses on pages 4, 7, 13, 14, and every facial expression betrays the adolescent nature of her mind, the lin-

gering uncertainty about the use of her powers, coupled dangerously with her obvious glee in using them! By contrast, Lois radiated both femininity and maturity in every panel she appeared in—her comfort in herself was clearly in her fashion choice of the day!

And a wider contrast was illustrated in the way two relationships are presented: Lois and Clark, and Supergirl and Lex. The fragility and falseness of the latter only serves to show the strength and firmness of the former—especially on the last page, where Lois, far from being critical of Clark's apparent immaturity towards Supergirl, helps to reinforce his sense of right and duty, and their love for each other. Yet we can only be so sad to see Supergirl's emotions being manipulated, and her "love," unlike Lois's, being totally blind, yet no less intense. We just know she's going to be hurt, and hurt so terribly bad.

But I want to plead with you—when Supergirl finally learns the truth, please do not allow her to deal with the trauma by flying off to planets afar and rejecting all that Earth and Superman have to offer. I don't want to see her relegated to being just a bitplayer in the DC Universe. This isn't the Supergirl we grew up with and grew fond of, but that Supergirl was really only interesting—and more than one-dimensional—in the manner of her death, whereas the new incarnation is replete with interesting possibilities, not the least of which lie in the fact that she is in no way a carbon copy of Superman. Make her a part of the Superman family, allow Superman to become her "older brother," if you will. It takes a very long time for new characters to become established as legends in the DC Universe, female characters doubly so, so don't lose one that has already achieved that status! And I want to know how Lois would accept her as a little "sister-in-law"!

Jim Jackson
Kent, England

Dear Super-Cupids:

The Supergirl/Lex Luthor II/ Superman triangle is even more fun than I thought it would be! Well, okay, it's not a triangle, 'cause Clark's engaged to Lois, but I enjoyed the fact that Supergirl accused him of being jealous. In fact, it was great to see them have it out because both parties had legitimate concerns. Supergirl can be naive and too trusting, while Superman was realizing that she has no real identity of her own, only Lex to give her some connection to the past. I enjoyed the recap of Supergirl's origins in the story's beginning. Even though I have those issues, the flashbacks helped me remember where she's coming from. Both Superman and the reader can see the potential danger that she's in, while at the same time be concerned for her need for love and acceptance. It's only natural that the intense issues between the two super-beings should come to a head. Even though Supergirl's emotional reaction triggered the battle and apologies were eventually made, nothing really was resolved. I prefer it that way because it means we'll see more of this odd couple in future issues. It was good, old-fashioned super reading. Roger Stern produced a fine script that moved the story along and gave us insight into the intimate lives of the characters.

I enjoyed the art by Jackson Guice and Denis Rodier because it appeared more realistic than most comic books in general, which tend to be more cartoony in the way they're drawn. That in itself is not bad—in fact, it's one of the things I like most about comics. It's just that I'd expect more realistic art styles to appear in the horror titles. Seeing a more "serious" approach in ACTION COMICS is very refreshing. I especially liked all the perspectives the artists used in the panels. My favorite scene is the one with Superman and Supergirl flying over Metropolis on page 15. The scenes with Supergirl and Lex are also kinda steamy!

This issue also featured an excellent, eye-catching cover by Art Thibert & Company.

Neil Ahlquist
Minneapolis, MI

Dear Editor:

Hahl! I know what's up with Luthor! But first, selected quotes: "Lex Luthor the Second."

—Various sources

"And his knowledge was part of my legacy."

—L.L. II, ACTION #672, p.13, panel 3

"...To the first Lex Luthor? Well, genes win out, y'know!"

—L.L. II, ACTION #676, p. 4, panel 2

"And the very idea that in it once existed an alternate version of myself...or rather, of my late father."

—L.L. II, ACTION #677, p. 5, panel 1

Now let's go back to the MAN OF STEEL miniseries, issue #5, pages 4-6, Dr. Teng's Bio-Matrix cloning device. Superman was scanned—every part of his cellular and molecular structure. The Bio-Matrix could perfectly duplicate any known form of life. But because Superman was an unknown form of life, the copy crystalized and became a Bizarro version. Lex Luthor, on the other hand, was a known life form. Why wouldn't he copy himself in case something befell him?

Project Changeling duplicated memories from what L.L. says on page 6. This explains why L.L. II says, "And his knowledge was part of my legacy."

If L.L. II is a clone, it would explain why he slipped in his discussion with Supergirl in ACTION #677. And he refers to himself as "the Second," not Lex Luthor, Jr., as a son would normally refer to himself. And the clincher, your tag line for ACTION #678: "They Saved Luthor's Brain!"

Good job, gentlemen, Luthor is dead. And yet...

Thomas Deeny
College Station, TX

A good bit of detecting there, Thomas, and for it you have rightfully earned a piece of Luthor's brain in the form of a Baldy Award. Save it...nurture it...love it.

Dear Dr Freud:

I had the strangest dream last night. I dreamt about my favorite super-hero comic book, ACTION COMICS, featuring Superman. Several years ago, Superman's history was rewritten. The creators started fresh, telling all new tales. The sky was the limit. Anything was possible. Here's where my dream comes in. I dreamt that, in the latest issue, Supergirl returned and battled our hero. She was strong, individual, and an interesting character on her own. Futher,

the issue was produced by a dream team—Roger Stern, "Butch" Guice, Denis Rodier, and Glenn Whitmore. Each page was a delight to behold. The creators even made Lois Lane a fascinating, sexy, and involving character. I finished the issue then gazed at the Art Thibert (ART THIBERT!!!) cover for awhile. When I woke up, I knew I had to get this down on paper. To a comics fan, Superman could never get this good, even with today's standards.

How do you interpret this dream? Was it indicative of pathology? Am I projecting my hopes and dreams into comic book form? Or, is this really what it seems: a new golden age for the Man of Steel? DC Comics could never get this dream creative team together on a book, let alone a Superman comic! Will deep psychoanalysis be necessary to elicit the parallels between Lois Lane/Supergirl, and the Oedipus complex? And, why would I dream a Lex Luthor, Jr. into the plot?

Thanking you in advance for your time and thoughts,

Mark Lucas
Los Angeles, CA

Seems to us that you are experiencing "comics envy." Now, just lie back on the couch and keep reading the Superman titles. You may not get better, but you'll be having too much fun to notice.

—Eddie Berganza
Big Boots to Fill!

This month's cover was pencilled and inked by Art Thibert... so now you know why his parents had to name him that. (Art ...not Thibert, you wiseheimers!) Glenn Whitmore joined in on the coloring...though we're still not really sure what his parents had in mind. Sorry, Glenn. Thanks, guys.

NEXT WEEK: in THE MAN OF STEEL #16, Superman faces the frustration of trying to prevent an incident of domestic violence in his own apartment building... only to have the apparent victim turn the law on him. Be here for "Crisis at Hand" Part One with Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove and Dennis Janke in just seven days.

TWO WEEKS from now in SUPERMAN #72: "Crisis at Hand" Part Two shows the Man of Steel that only one person can save his neighbor Andrea from her violent situation—herself! Dan Jurgens writes and draws, as usual, and Brad Vancata helps out on the inking chores in a meager fourteen days.

THREE WEEKS from today in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #495: Uncomfortable recently with his life among "regular" people, Clark goes to Super-town to try life among equals... the Forever People, to be more specific! Jerry Ordway, Tom Grummett and Doug Hazlewood arrange the Man of Steel's vacation from Metropolis in a mere twenty-one days.

ONE MONTH from now in ACTION COMICS #682: Killgrave's back—and so is Terry Austin! This time Killgrave's got a foolproof plan to do Superman in...as he unveils Hi-Tech, a veritable killing machine of his own design! Roger Stern calls guest penciller Dusty Abell and the inker of SUPERMAN #1, Terry Austin, to action in just twenty-eight big ones!

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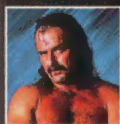
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